



**Director of  
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# **National Intelligence Daily**

*Thursday  
8 March 1984*

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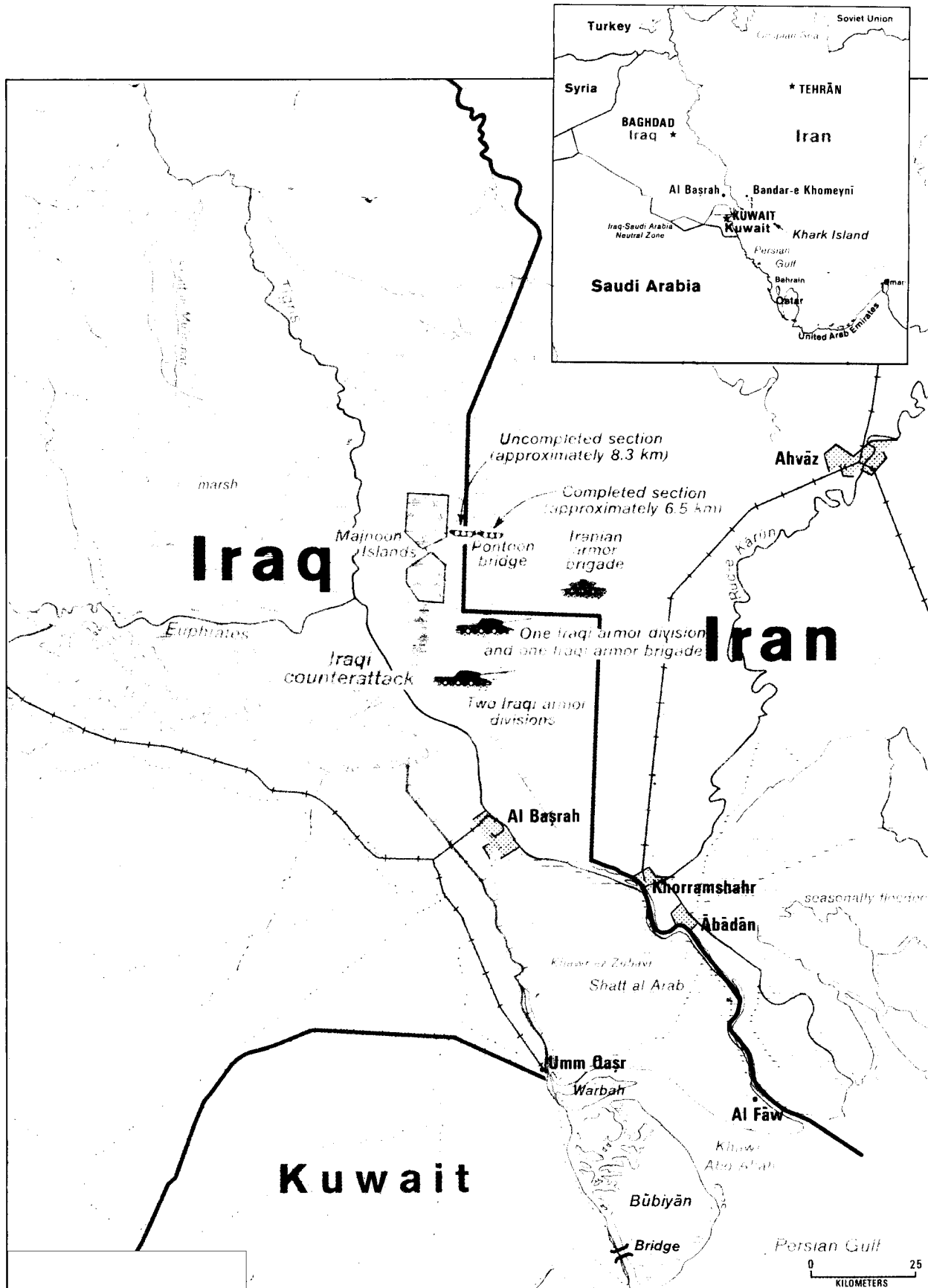
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**IRAN-IRAQ: Iranians Halt Iraqi Counterattack**

*Iran appears to have stopped Iraq's counterattack on the Majnoon Islands.* [redacted]

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US diplomats in Baghdad say that a senior Iraqi diplomat agreed yesterday with their assessment that Iraq's efforts to retake the Majnoon oilfields are in trouble. [redacted]

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**Comment:** If Iran completes the pontoon bridge, it will be able to move artillery and probably armored vehicles onto the island quickly.

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[redacted] air attacks against Iraqi cities are likely to resume when Tehran launches its main offensive against Al Basrah. Iran cannot sustain large-scale air attacks, but it could increase its artillery shelling of Iraqi border areas. [redacted]

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Leading Iranian clerics anticipate a military victory over Iraq, and they want to strengthen control over the Iraqi exile movement. They also are dissatisfied with the Council's failure to rally Iraqi Shias against President Saddam Husayn. Tehran would like to control Iraq's government if it wins the war, but many of the Iraqi opposition leaders object to the creation of a puppet government in Baghdad. [redacted]

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**IRAQ-US: Strained Relations**

*Baghdad is reacting angrily to the US condemnation of its use of chemical agents and probably is nervous about what it views as a slackening of US support in other areas.* [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

President Saddam Husayn has publicly accused the US of trying to gain favor with Iran. [REDACTED]

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Diplomatic sources in Amman say the US Export-Import Bank has decided not to join the funding of an Iraqi oil pipeline through Jordan, a project in which Japanese, French, West German, and British banks are participating. The Iraqis reportedly have emphasized the importance of US involvement. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** The Iraqis almost certainly will believe that these setbacks are part of an effort by the US to prolong the war. They have claimed repeatedly that both the US and the USSR want the fighting to continue, in order to weaken both belligerents. [REDACTED]

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As long as the war continues, Baghdad cannot afford a complete break in its relations with the US. Nonetheless, the recent incidents will strengthen the position of those Iraqi leaders who are suspicious of the US and will delay any resumption of full diplomatic ties. [REDACTED]

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**USSR-US-PERSIAN GULF: Soviet Protest**

*The TASS statement issued yesterday denouncing US naval activity in the Persian Gulf apparently is intended to blame the US for the increasing tension in the region.* [REDACTED]

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The statement accused the US of "gross violation" of international law and warned that the USSR would not recognize US-imposed restrictions on air and sea traffic. It stated that Washington—in claiming the Gulf is an area vital to US interests—is endangering lives and property and is provoking "a conflict situation" for which it would have to bear full responsibility. [REDACTED]

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*Pravda* has reported that the Politburo at its meeting last week accused the US of increasing tensions in the Indian Ocean region. Deputy Foreign Minister Korniyenko told the French Ambassador that this meant that the US should not meddle in the Gulf. The Soviets also are urging representatives of Indian Ocean littoral states at the UN to support a resolution affirming freedom of navigation in the Arabian Sea and criticizing recent US activity in the region. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** The TASS statement appears designed to portray the USSR as a champion of freedom of navigation, without antagonizing either Iraq or Iran. It carefully avoids mentioning either country or the war. Moscow probably is trying to capitalize on the recent press reports that US ships fired warning shots at Iranian planes and ships.

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The timing of the statement—one day after the issuance of the report of the International Civil Aviation Organization on the shootdown of the South Korean airliner—and the citing of relevant civil air agreements suggest that Moscow may be trying to offset new adverse publicity. The Soviets may now issue a formal demarche to the US, similar to their protest in January on US naval and air activity in the eastern Mediterranean. Despite these public expressions of concern, there has been no unusual Soviet naval activity in the area. [REDACTED]

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## Recent Maitatsine Activity



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**NIGERIA: Implications of Religious Rioting**

*The Army has restored order in the northeastern State of Gongola following more than a week of rioting by a small Islamic fringe group, but rumors of more outbreaks in other northern cities are forcing military governors to take precautions.* [ ]

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The latest violence—the fourth clash since 1979 between security forces and the outlawed Maitatsine sect—was provoked when undermanned police tried to arrest members of the group and were forced to call in the Army. The Maitatsine are hostile to all authority, including that exercised by fundamentalists and traditional Muslims, whom they regard as nonbelievers. [ ]

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The sect's estimated 10,000 members are organized into communal cells and lead an underground existence in nearly every major northern city. It continues to recruit heavily among poorly educated youths who migrate to the cities. [ ]

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There are no reports of foreign involvement with the Maitatsine or in the latest disturbances. Libya and Iran, however, have gained limited influence with some other northern Nigerian Muslim groups by offering them money and training. Saudi Arabia also has supported more mainline progovernment Muslim groups. [ ]

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**Comment:** The rioting comes at a time of deteriorating economic conditions. Head of State Buhari cannot afford to appear weak and vacillating and will use whatever force he believes necessary to prevent more disturbances. [ ]

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Additional religious ferment in the north could offer new opportunities for splinter groups to gain outside support and influence far beyond their numerical strength. Any appearance of faltering government control also could serve as a pretext for a coup attempt by middle- or junior-level officers. Many of them already are upset about the government's slowness in effecting economic recovery and punishing former civilian politicians. [ ]

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**ETHIOPIA-SUDAN: Continuing Tension**

*The deep mistrust between Addis Ababa and Khartoum does not improve prospects for mediation in talks sponsored by Egypt that are scheduled to take place in Nairobi later this month.* [REDACTED]

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The US Embassy in Addis Ababa reports that Ethiopia holds Sudan responsible for the increase in insurgent activity in its northern provinces of Eritrea and Tigray during the past year. [REDACTED]

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**Comment:** Although both sides have agreed to participate in Egypt's mediation effort, neither Addis Ababa nor Khartoum appears willing or able to take the steps that are necessary to ease tensions. They persist in blaming their problems largely on external factors, rather than focusing on domestic policies that would help reduce dissidence. [REDACTED]

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Ethiopia views Sudan's efforts at reconciliation as duplicitous because Khartoum is continuing to allow Eritrean and Tigrean insurgents to use Sudan as a logistic base. Nimeiri has little control over the Eritrean dissidents, however, and he has failed in several attempts to restrict their operations. [REDACTED]

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Mengistu's frustration about the insurgencies in the northern provinces will reinforce his commitment to support the Sudanese dissidents. [REDACTED]

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**EL SALVADOR: Military Activity**

*Government forces are increasing pressure on the guerrillas in eastern and central areas of the country.* [redacted]

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The US defense attache reports that over the weekend an immediate reaction battalion attacked guerrilla forces near Ciudad Barrios in San Miguel Department. The unit claims it killed 60 guerrillas and captured 40 weapons in the fighting. [redacted]

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The Army is conducting sweep operations in southeastern and southwestern Usulután Department. Fighting continues in the Guazapa area in Cuscatlán. [redacted]

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Meanwhile, the General Staff has warned units to be alert for accelerated guerrilla activity in the San Salvador area through the election period. The US Embassy reports an increase in terrorist incidents in the capital since 1 March. [redacted]

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**Comment:** The Army's operations are intended to seize the tactical initiative, disrupt insurgent concentrations and logistic networks, and prevent the guerrillas from upsetting the election process. The insurgents have been largely successful in avoiding major government sweeps, however, and they probably are preparing to intensify their own military operations as the election nears. [redacted]

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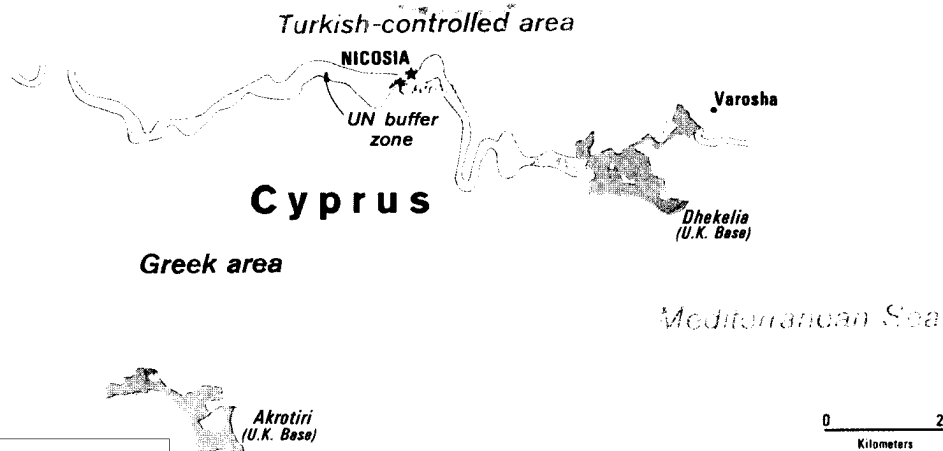
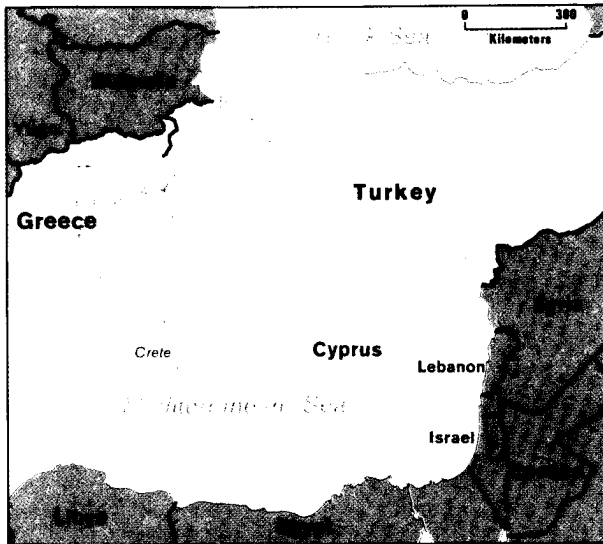
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### Greek and Turkish Forces in Cyprus

#### Greek Forces

Cypriot National Guard 10,000 - 11,000  
 650 seconded Greek officers  
 Greek Army regulars 1,900

#### Turkish Forces

Turkish Cypriot Security Force 5,000  
 400 seconded Turkish regulars and NCO's  
 Turkish Army regulars 23,000-27,000

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**GREECE-TURKEY-CYPRUS: Possible Greek Reinforcements**

*There is widespread speculation in Cyprus, Turkey, and Greece about an impending deployment of Greek troops to the island.* [redacted]

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[redacted]  
Prime Minister Papandreou is encouraging a reluctant Cypriot President Kyprianou to accept additional troops to strengthen the 2,000-man Greek garrison. [redacted]

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Turkish and Turkish Cypriot leaders have issued harsh warnings recently about the consequences if Greece were to send more troops to the island. [redacted]

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[redacted] Turkey would be likely to respond with more troops of its own. Such a move would greatly heighten tensions and increase the possibility of hostilities. [redacted]

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**WEST GERMANY-EAST GERMANY: Increasing Contacts**

*The recent meeting in Moscow between Chancellor Kohl and East German leader Honecker seems to have given new momentum to bilateral relations.* [ ]

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Press reports state that East German Politburo member Mittag will meet with Kohl early next month during a visit to the trade fair in Hannover, and Bavarian leader Strauss may talk with Honecker next week at the trade fair in Leipzig, East Germany. In addition, West German opposition leader Vogel will meet with Honecker next week.

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Bonn and East Berlin resumed negotiations on Monday on a bilateral cultural agreement. The talks had lapsed after INF deployments began. The US Embassy in East Berlin reports that Honecker recently hinted that he would take up an invitation to visit West Germany. [ ]

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Meanwhile, the press also is reporting that East Germany continues to allow emigration at the fastest rate since the Berlin Wall was constructed. About 2,000 people have emigrated in the last three weeks, as compared with about 1,000 per month in late 1983. [ ]

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Between 20,000 and 30,000 people could be released over the next several months, according to the Embassy. West Germany makes periodic payments to East Germany for allowing emigration.

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**Comment:** East Berlin's cooperative attitude may reflect confidence in Honecker's rapport with General Secretary Chernenko. Now that enough time has elapsed since INF deployments began, East Germany also probably believes it risks no serious loss in credibility by seeking better relations with West Germany. [ ]

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East German leaders are likely to hope that easing restrictions on emigration will rid them of many dissidents. They also probably calculate that this apparent liberalization—even if temporary—will square accounts with Bonn for its \$400 million loan guarantee last summer. Moreover, East Germany may be trying to lay the groundwork for obtaining more economic help from Bonn, even though it is unlikely to have an immediate need for another major loan. [ ]

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**USSR-AFGHANISTAN: Soviets Prepare for Offensive**

[redacted] Soviet and Afghan forces are preparing for a major assault into the Panjsher Valley later this month. [redacted]

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[redacted] Press reports claim that the Soviets already have attacked Nejrab, a strategic point on the main road to the valley. [redacted]

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**Comment:** The Soviets have repeatedly warned Masood that operations outside the Panjsher Valley by his forces would break the year-old truce. They probably have decided to act now because guerrillas from the Panjsher are more active in the Shomali area north of Kabul and because they are attacking Soviet convoys more frequently. The recent Soviet commission to Afghanistan led by Deputy Defense Minister Sokolov may have recommended a new campaign. The Soviets could still try to suppress guerrilla activity by attacking targets in the nearby Nejrab and Kapisa areas, however, instead of directly assaulting Masood's stronghold in the Panjsher Valley. [redacted]

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**SOUTH AFRICA-ANGOLA: Troop Withdrawal Suspended**

South Africa informed Angola on Tuesday that it has suspended the phased withdrawal of its remaining forces in southern Angola because of increasing SWAPO infiltration into Namibia. The South Africans cited evidence that SWAPO's actions took place within areas controlled by Angolan forces. South Africa, however, informed Angola that the withdrawal would resume as soon as "the problem had been resolved." [redacted]

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**Comment:** The suspension probably is intended as a sharp reminder that Angola has to make a greater effort to enforce the disengagement agreement. Although the South Africans recognize that the Angolans cannot completely control SWAPO infiltration, they clearly believe that the Angolans are doing far less than they can to make disengagement work. Pretoria is likely to view Luanda's response as a measure of Angola's commitment to the peace process. The movement of the mechanized unit away from the border indicates that Pretoria is not now preparing to move back into Angola. [redacted]

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**PT-76 Light Amphibious Tank**

Produced in USSR	1951-1967
Main Armament	1-76.2mm gun
Crew	3
Weight	14,000 kg



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**BULGARIA-NICARAGUA: Delivery of Tanks**

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**Comment:** These are the first PT-76 tanks delivered to Nicaragua. Some 45 T-55 tanks were delivered in 1981 and 1982. The PT-76s will improve the mobility of Sandinista armored forces during the rainy season and in the marshy terrain of eastern Nicaragua. In addition to their use against insurgents, the tanks represent a potential threat to Honduras.

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**USSR: Deputy Minister Expelled From Party**

TASS announced yesterday that the party's Control Committee has expelled a Deputy Minister of Tractor and Agricultural Machine Building from the party for abuse of office. Criminal proceedings are being brought against him and his accomplices.

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**Comment:** The investigation almost certainly was initiated before Andropov's death, but General Secretary Chernenko would have had to endorse these actions. Last week Chernenko asserted publicly that high officials would not be exempt from the anticorruption campaign, and the expulsion underscores this message. The campaign continued during Andropov's last months, and it probably still has extensive support in the Politburo. Although Chernenko and Premier Tikhonov evidently are willing to dismiss and punish lower-level officials, they presumably would protect those regional first secretaries and government ministers on whom they depend for political support.

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**ITALY-USSR: New Gas Purchases Approved**

Rome has given the state energy firm formal approval to negotiate new gas purchases from the USSR. Government officials say there are no political obstacles to a resumption of negotiations with the Soviets for new gas purchases. A source of the US Embassy reports that any agreement to purchase additional Soviet gas probably would be for between 2 billion and 4 billion cubic meters annually, rather than the 8 billion in the original contract. [redacted]

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**Comment:** Italy does not need additional gas at least until the 1990s. The Italians, however, see themselves in a good position in the current buyers' market to play off the Soviets, the Dutch, and eventually the Algerians to extract concessions on prices and minimum purchase requirements. Rome probably will still insist on Soviet trade concessions, however, in order to help ease its trade deficit of over \$1 billion. It also is likely to take a tough position on prices, especially in view of the energy firm's losses of about \$1 billion in 1983. [redacted]

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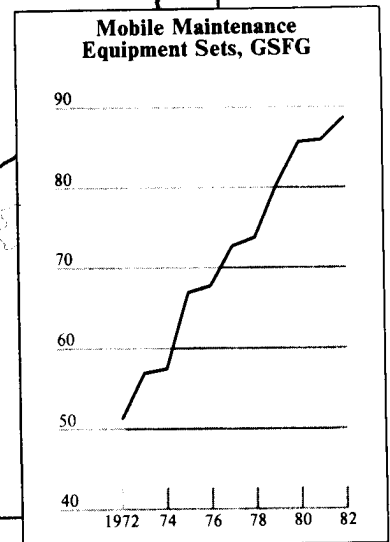
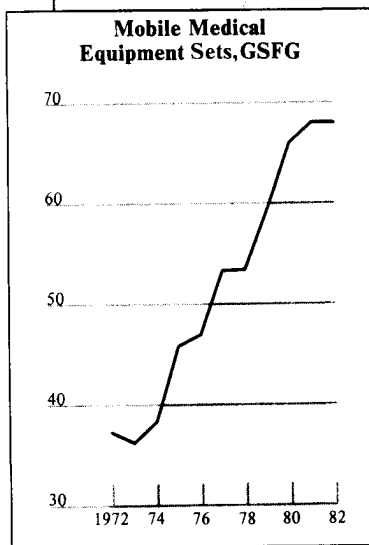
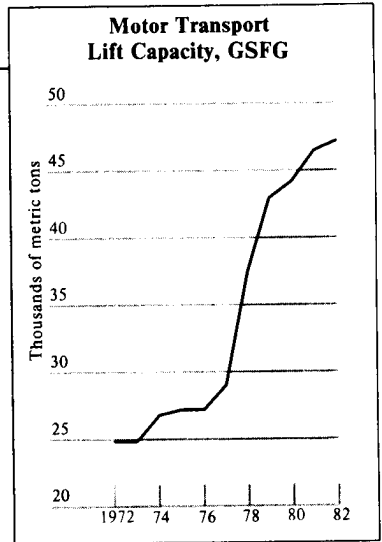
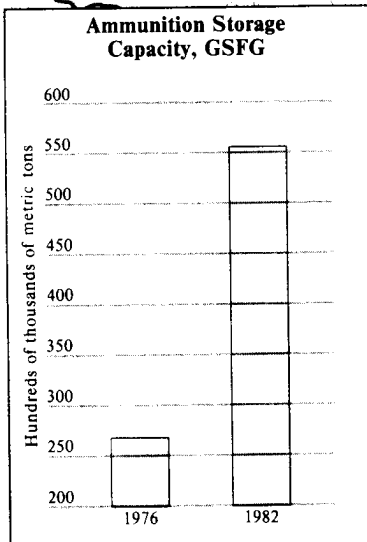
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**Soviet Logistic Installations**

Note: GSFG is Group Soviet Forces Germany.  
The final borders of Germany have not been established and some other boundaries are not necessarily authoritative.

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## **Special Analysis**

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### **USSR-EAST GERMANY: Soviet Logistic Buildup**

*The USSR has substantially expanded its military logistic structure in Central Europe since the mid-1970s. The Soviets now have enough combat supplies in East Germany to support more than twice their current force there in the initial phase of a campaign against NATO. The large stockpile gives them greater flexibility in the use of supply lines to the USSR and much greater ability to sustain operations if NATO severely damages those lines. The Soviets, however, still would need to move in troops to fill out rear service units in East Germany.*

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[ ] Soviet military writings, [ ] indicate that the Soviets have provided the key support services to their troops in East Germany far beyond the norms for forces of such size. These categories include ammunition and fuel, medical service, and equipment repair. Most growth occurred after 1976 through systematic construction and expansion. [ ]

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During the past decade in East Germany, the Soviets have:

- Built seven new front-level fuel depots and expanded the other 34.
- Constructed seven front-level ammunition depots and expanded the other nine.
- Doubled the equipment available to form mobile equipment-repair units.
- Increased their mobile field hospital sets from 37 to 65.
- Modernized motor transport units with new trucks built with Western technology and established a reserve of as many as 12,000 older trucks. [ ]

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At the same time, the Soviets have modernized and expanded their combat units. This created a need for some increase in stocks to serve the additional artillery and motorized rifle units in the Soviet forces. The logistic buildup, however, has outstripped the pace of combat increases. [ ]

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**Advantages to the Soviets**

The systematic investment in service support reduces the Soviets' need to encumber their lines of communication before hostilities with bulky, vulnerable supplies. This will facilitate the rapid movement to the forward area from the USSR. [REDACTED]

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The Soviets now have the flexibility to sustain operations by the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany even if supply lines were cut or some stocks were destroyed early in a conflict. In addition, the USSR could use stocks already in Eastern Europe to supply second strategic echelon units that were moved from the western USSR to reinforce or exploit initial successes by the Warsaw Pact. [REDACTED]

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**Remaining Weaknesses**

Warning indicators associated with the movement forward of logistic supplies from the USSR before a conflict could be reduced, but not eliminated. Many Soviet service support units have no manpower assigned to them in peacetime, and at least 100,000 personnel would be needed to staff them. Approximately 40,000 troops would be needed to bring combat units to full strength. [REDACTED]

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These troops could be moved quickly to the forward area in a crisis. There could be some initial confusion, however, as units which had never trained as such were filled out and as supplies were moved from depots to combat units. Moreover, stocks not rapidly removed from facilities at the outbreak of hostilities would be vulnerable to attack. [REDACTED]

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Most of the new facilities are concentrated south of Berlin. They are thus not positioned to support Warsaw Pact forces that would operate in northern East Germany. These forces may still require resupply from Poland or the USSR. [REDACTED]

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